Posting of Joint Secretaries etc. abroad

2187. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Officers of the rank of Joint Secretaries and above have been deputed abroad during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the names of the officers, their period of visit, purpose of the visit and the amount spent by the respective Ministries, if sent on Government expenditure; and contributions made in public interest ?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP'SINGH): (a) and (b) The information is not centrally available.

Flexible Complementing Scheme for promotion of scientists

2188. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be ploised to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced Flexible Complementing Scheme for career promotion of Scientists in various scientific Ministries/Departments;

• (b) if so, whether pay-pattern and designations ia the Flexible Complementing Scheme are uniform in all the Ministries/Departments; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken to make them uniform to encourage inter-departmental movement of Scientists ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The pay patterns and designations of Scientific and Technical personnel in the various Ministries/Departments are not uniform. Moreover, the duties and functions of technical personnel also vary. An Inter-departmental Committee under the chairmanship of the then Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister and Member (Science), Planning Commission, has been worked on a package aimed at attaining maximum uniformity of pay scales and promotion opportunities Under the Flexible Complementing Scheme (FCS) in the various scientific departments over a period of time. It may be noted that under the FCS, a scientist gets *in-situ* promotion personal to him or her and does not imply that there will be an inter-departmental movement. Under the rules of deputation, a scientist can, however, go to another scientific department keeping a lien in the parent department. A greater degree of uniformity in pay-scales/ promotions is desirable to make easier inter-departmental movement of Scientists.

Improvement in High School education in rural areas

2189. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme has been undertaken for improvement of physical infrastructure in High School education in rural areas; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER *OF* STATE IN THE MINISTRY OP HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT ^SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA

(a) and (b) School education is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The State Governments provide necessary assistance for improvement of physical infrastructure in high schools located in rural areas under their respective jurisdiction. The Central Government are providing financial assistance to the States under certain Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. (i) Improvement of Science Education in Schools; (ii) Environmental Orientation to School Education; (iii) Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools; (iv) Vocational Education; and (v) Integrated Education for the Disabled Children for development of specific physical and curricular inputs for High school students in accordance with the various components approved under each scheme.

The Central Government are also undertaking Border Area Development Programme under which the border areas of Gujarat, J. & K., Punjab and Rajasthan are being provided funds for upgradation of schools, construction of additional classrooms/laboratories in existing schools and provision of essential facilities.

"Providing wasteland to Forests based industries

2190. SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of bamboo and wood produced in the country is consumed by paper mills and the plywood factories, resulting in tremendous amount of loss of the woods;

. (b) whether Government propose to provide waste land to the forest based industries to grow raw material *to* protect Government forests;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some forest-based big industries are getting raw material from the State Governments at very nomiual rates;

(d) whether Government have issued guidelines to the States that forests based industries should procure raw material at commercial rates only;

(e) whether it has come to Government's notice that some State Governments are selling large quantity of their forest goods on nominal rates to the big industries thereby incurring tremendous loss to Forest Department; and

(f) if so, what measures are being taken to avoid the losses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The New National Forest Policy. 1988 stipulates that farmers, particularly small and marginal farmers would be encouraged to grow wood required for the industries on marginal/degraded lands available with them.

(c) to (f) The National Forest Policy, 1988 stipulates that the practice of supply of forest produce to industry at concessional prices should cease.

The National Forest Policy, 1988, further states that as far as possible the wood based industry should raise the raw material needed for meeting its own requirements, preferably by establishment of direct relationship between the factory and the individuals who can grow raw material by supporting the individuals with inputs including credit, consultant technical advise and finally harvesting and transport services.